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Egyptians vote for Mubarak successor in historic poll



CAIRO (AFP) - Egyptians voted Wednesday in the country's first free presidential elections, with Islamists and secularists vying for power with competing visions of an Egypt liberated of ousted president Hosni Mubarak's iron grip.

Long queues of people braving the scorching heat, many in a festive mood, wound their way outside polling stations across the country throughout the day after polls opened at 8:00 am (0600 GMT).

"It's a beautiful day for

Egypt," said Nehmedo Abdel Hadi, who was voting at the Omar Makram school in Cairo's Shubra neighbourhood.

"Now I feel this is my country and I have dignity," said the 46-year-old woman, who wears a full-face veil.

Turnout appeared lower than the parliamentary elections held between November and January that brought Islamists to the forefront of politics with a big legislative win.

Continue on pg 6

Mitt Romney wins primaries votes in Arkansas, Kentucky

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Republican Mitt Romney won primary votes Tuesday in the southern states of Arkansas and Kentucky, bringing him within arm's reach of scoring the delegates needed for his party's formal White House nomination.

The Republican nomination race has been largely academic for months since the other main candidates have dropped out, and Romney is the party's nominee in all but name.

In Arkansas, Romney had around 71 percent of the vote against 14 percent for his nearest rival, Rick Santorum, who has already dropped out of the race, according to data from the Arkansas secretary of state with four percent of precincts reporting.

And in Kentucky, Romney won around 67 percent of the vote against 12 percent for his nearest rival, Ron Paul, the Kentucky state board of elections said with nearly all precincts reporting.

A total of 75 delegates were at stake in the primaries.

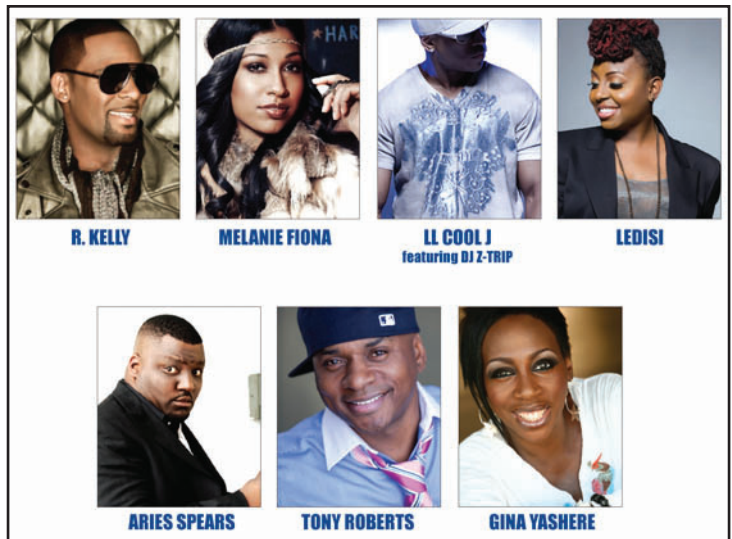
Romney is likely to reach the magic number of 1,144 delegates to formally clinch the party nomination when Texas voters cast primary ballots on May 29.

For weeks, Romney has been in a general campaign mode, raising money nationally and attacking President Barack Obama, a Democrat who is seeking a second White House term in the November 6 poll.

The Republicans formally nominate their presidential candidate at the party's convention in August in Tampa, Florida.

Soul Beach Music Festival 2012 shifts into turbo drive tomorrow night

with the comedians Aries Spears, Tony Roberts and Gina Yashere



Soul Beach Comedy Night kicks off a full Memorial Day weekend of remarkable entertainment with a line-up of comedic greats delivering verbal humor, extraordinary impressions, and the uncanny ability to poke fun at the frustrations of modern life and foibles of human nature. Taking center stage at the Aruba Entertainment Center in Oranjestad will be Aries Spears, Tony Roberts and Gina Yashere, sure crowd pleasers with a dedicated following.

Aries Spears is a force to be reckoned with in the U.S. comedy scene. His quick wit, charisma and ferociously aggressive style of comedy have earned him critical ac-

claim, high accolades, and above all, a busy schedule. From being a regular on Fox's Mad TV, starring in dozens of feature films, appearing on a number of national talk shows, and continually touring the country with his stand-up, Aries a very busy and funny guy.

Tony Roberts, comedian, actor, writer and (sometimes) director has been blessed with the coveted label of the "Comedians' comedian." After taping his highly anticipated second standup comedy special, "I'm Different," Tony appeared at the 2012 Shaq Comedy All Star Comedy Jam during NBA All Star Weekend.

Continue on pg 3



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New Training Course for Immigration Officials



On Tuesday morning all Aruba Immigration personnel began a new training course which is supposed to be part of the development of their careers. The Minister of Justice was present at the first class to wish them success and to encourage them to press on, working diligently for the general benefit of the community.

The Minister expressed regret that it took this long to start with the training course. One of the reasons is that they were working with different departments simultaneously, among these, KIA, Police, Fire Department and the Immigration.

According to the Minister of Justice, "...This is the future of your careers." ...in the future you should be able to

pursue your career without any problems following the changes which are currently in progress."

They are reportedly working on a basic course that would prepare each new Immigration officer from the start of his career up to where he wants to reach to assume a position within the ranks. This will eliminate all discussion regarding who has the right to promotions, etc.

There will be an official management structure within the organization according to the Minister, and the course they are following will prepare them adequately to function within that structure. Following the course they will be able to continue their development smoothly and with renewed enthusiasm, says the Minister of Justice.

Ministry of Tourism reports final numbers for 2011 promising and other good news for Aruba's tourism



Photo depicts Lto R: Peter Steinmetz, Jo Ann Arends, Jossy Lacle and Minister Oduber

Minister of Tourism, Transport & Labor, Otmar Oduber, welcomed island media for an update from a recent report on Aruba's tourism performance for 2011. Figures are collated from several agencies, including the Aruba Tourism Authority, ATA, Aruba Airport Authority, AAA, Aruba Hotel and Tourism Association, AHATA, Aruba Timeshare Association, ATSA, Central Bureau of Statistics and the Aruba Ports Authority, APA, to give an accurate picture of the industry's growth or decrease over the year. The report was issued by the Central Bank of Aruba.

Minister Oduber stated he is well satisfied on all fronts, with an increase of stay-over guests from 2010 by 5.7% and growth in cruise tourism of 5.4% over 2011. Aruba received 4.4% of the Caribbean market share of stay over visitors, which is record high since 1996. Earnings from tourism were also up by 8.58% over the previous year, surpassing gross receipts for 2008, which had been a

record year. Arrivals by cruise ship also broke records this year, with 599,900 visitors.

Jossy Lacle, heading the committee that oversees the ATA budget and tourism expenditures, was present to represent that sector. The Minister announced that since privatization of the ATA a little more than a year ago, its first annual financial report has resulted in the ATA ending the year with a surplus of funds, around six million Aruban florins, for the first time in its history. "After years of going over budget and having shortages, I must compliment the ATA on their astute handling of monies and wise marketing decisions," commented Minister Oduber, with Mr. Lacle in agreement.

Delta Airlines to begin with daily flights to Aruba!

CEO of AAA, Peter Steinmetz, was on hand for the other welcome announcement that Delta Airlines will increase its service to Aruba out of JFK airport from weekend flights on Saturday

and Sunday, to a daily flight departing at 8:10 AM every morning, beginning this coming November.

Additionally, this flight departs from Terminal 4 at JFK, which offers direct service to Amsterdam, so this may open a new option for islanders traveling to Holland. Since American Airlines cancelled all New York flights to Aruba following their filing for Chapter 11, Jet Blue increased their service dramatically, and now with Delta also flying daily the New York numbers for seat capacity during the winter months of 2012-2013 will be 62,988, which is 2,700+ seats greater than when American offered regular service. American continues to fly to Aruba twice daily out of their principal hub in Miami.

The quoted facts and figures are part of an Annual Statistical Report from the Central Bank of Aruba, which covers every aspect of the island's financial status and can be viewed online at: <http://www.cbs.aw>

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Friday **BlackJack Tournament**

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Soul Beach Music Festival 2012 shifts into turbo drive tomorrow night...

Continued from pg 1

He was seen at the HOT 97 April Fool's Comedy show at Madison Square Garden and will do a week at Caroline's on Broadway, NYC in June.

Gina Yashere was the first British comedian to ever be on Def Comedy Jam, in 2008. She is known for her regular, hilarious appearances on The Tonight Show with Jay Leno as Madame Yashere, The Surly Psychic. Born in London of a Nigerian mother, she shoots from the hip and nothing is sacred. She has continued to take the comedy world by storm and is now one of the most highly sought after comics in the UK and the US, making numerous appearances on TV, radio, and the big screen.

Friday is only the start of a full weekend of top entertainment, continuing with a melodic elixir of contemporary R&B and a splash of jazz infused soul featuring Grammy Award-winning and nominated all-stars R. Kelly, LL Cool J "Featuring DJ Z-Trip", Ledisi and Melanie Fiona performing on the

Nikki Beach Amphitheatre Saturday and Sunday. SBMF concerts will include opening performances by local talent Aruba All Stars & Youth X-Treme.

"Aruba welcomes all the fans of the SOUL BEACH MUSIC FESTIVAL for another celebration of spectacular performances and a chic island ambiance under the starry skies and on Aruba's famous beaches," said Otmar Oduber, Minister of Tourism, Transportation and Labor.

The long weekend is filled with media events, parties and activities including Main Source fitness bootcamp, memorable beach parties and hot nights at Aruban hot spots. Music fans can expect to party under the stars all night and revel in the DJ sets of today's biggest names, Frank Ski, Biz Markie and General Lee. Live radio remotes feed daily to North America and International listening audiences by way of WHUR, WBAV, Foxxhole Radio along with the Doug & Dede Show.

Monday, May 21st was a festive day for our 'Dushi' Papiamento

Nine years ago, on May 21, 2003, the Aruban Parliament decreed by law that Papiamento is an official language along with Dutch. This meant that as of May 21st 2003 Aruba had two official languages, the Dutch language and our own Papiamento language. Before this date neither of the two languages were legally official languages on Aruba.

Interesting is that even in The Netherlands the Dutch language was not declared by law to be official until 1995!

In Curaçao and Bonaire Papiamento became official 4 years later in 2007. The idea behind making Papiamento legal is in order to stimulate the use of our own language also in the government apparatus and for Papiamento and Dutch to be recognized as equal.

The law entails, among others, that any citizen may use either Papiamento or Dutch to communicate with the government. This means that a citizen may write to the government also in Papiamento. Likewise government



officials may write official documents in Papiamento.

In certain cases a citizen may request that an official government document be translated into one of our official languages. The law also allows one to request a document from the Census Office in Papiamento. In order to offer the service of translation into Papiamento, the government offered a special translation course to personnel some years ago.

Another new possibility which the law affords is the opportunity to take an oath of

office in Papiamento. In taking an oath, the following text is used: "Dios Todopoderoso yuda mi," and when making a promise, the words, "Esey mi ta priminti" are used. And, when making a declaration, the words: "Esey mi ta declara."

With respect to the justice department, for the time being, the language used will remain Dutch, because of the ties with the Dutch legal system with The Netherlands and the Antilles. The intention is to give Papiamento and Dutch equal footing in the future within the legal system as well.

During the last years Papiamento has developed considerably. We have our own Papiamento Orthographic vocabulary known as the blue book. And, we also have our own Papiamento Grammatical Manual and Syntax.

You can read more about Papiamento on our webpage at www.papiamento.aw or on facebook. Or, follow Papiamento on twitter. Long Live Papiamento!

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Your finances must be in order to have success says ATIA



As long as the financial records of your business are not in order, it will be diffi-

cult for a business owner to know how his business is fairing, according to ATIA's Joyce Bartels-Daal. The ATIA director is convinced that in order for a business to thrive it must have its finances in order.

According to ATIA, as representative of the business community on Aruba, they also place a great deal of attention on their own internal financial situation.

They produce and evaluate a report every month and ATIA is encouraging their members to have their finances in order.

Reportedly, 80 to 90% of all businesses in Aruba fall in the category of small to medium size. It really does not matter how many employees a company has, the business owner must give due attention to his figures so that he can ascertain where his business is headed and to be able to achieve his business goals, says Bartels-Daal. The success of a business owner is not necessarily based on his vision and goals, but he must have an effective administration whereby he can measure the progress and the functionality of his company. A very crucial element is to know exactly how a business owner's money is being managed.

According to ATIA, any system that would help entrepreneurs to get over the hump of how to prepare a sound administration would be welcome. Anyone going into business should be well prepared, because the better prepared the person is the better are his chances for creating and having a successful business, says the ATIA executive as an advice to those embarking on a business venture.



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SEE MAGIC LIVE!...comedy show, starring Adam Steinfeld, and his lovely Sirens of Magic, 9pm nightly, at the WESTIN Resort, aruba, theater-of-illusion showroom, the 200 seat intimate theater is located just off, westin lobby, tickets at the door.

MORE INFO: www.MagicLive.com, group sales; (297) 561-1090

direct photo link to story

http://magiclive.smugmug.com/Theater/Magic-Live-show-starring-Adam/5028087_X6PCQT/12/1853775233_qwfdH7g/XLarge

Don't miss the Carubbian Festival tonight!



SAN NICOLAS -- Every Thursday evening, islanders flock to San Nicolas to enjoy the fabulous bargains and entertainment of the Carubbian Festival, a mix of Aruban and Caribbean traditions kept alive by the multi-cultural make up of Aruba's "Sunrise City."

Originally populated by the thousands that came from all over the Caribbean to work at the refinery, the town has savored and preserved the food, music and dance that many brought with them from their various regions. The festival revels in the diverse background of San Nicolas, offering unique dishes and beverages, along with a full evening of island entertainment.

Scattered throughout the main street of San Nicolas are performance areas surrounded by seating where you can settle in with an island snack or dinner.

Island visitors can enjoy the Carubbian festival as part of a complete package available at all De Palm and concierge desks, which include transportation. You can customize your evening by purchasing with or without food and refreshments. A variety of local handicrafts are offered for sale and the event guarantees a good time for all, with an authentic introduction to the island experience.

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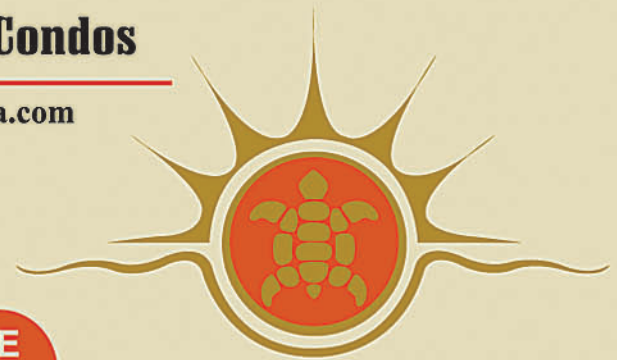


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Mario Bros creator Miyamoto wins top Spanish prize

MADRID (AFP) - Nintendo's Shigeru Miyamoto, creator of Super Mario Bros, Donkey Kong and other hit video games, won a top Spanish prize Wednesday for "revolutionising" the industry.

The jury of Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Prize conferred a 50,000 euro (\$64,000) award for communications and humanities on the 59-year-old Miyamoto.

It praised the Japanese game designer for "excluding violence from his creations" and turning video games into

"a medium capable of bringing people together regardless of sex, age or social or cultural status."

The award is one of eight given in different fields by the Asturias Foundation each year. In addition to the cash, winners receive a sculpture designed by the late Catalan artist Joan Miro.

Miyamoto said he was "very honoured" and "humbled" to receive the award.

"I will continue my efforts so that video games will continuously be able to offer fun

and joy to people of all generations all around the world," he added in a statement.

Miyamoto has created over 100 games and is widely seen as the world's most influential games designer.

Described as the Steven Spielberg of the game world for his visionary designs, his game Mario Bros is the most sold video game in history with sales of 275 million copies worldwide, including over 40 million copies of Super Mario Bros.

Miyamoto is responsible for the first video game made entirely in 3D -- Super Mario 64 -- as well as the first console with two separate screens, one of which is a touchscreen -- the Nintendo DS.

Among his other creations is Wii Fit home exercise game, the first major video game controlled by the movement of the body, and Wii Music, a composition game now used in schools around the world.

"With these creations, he

has converted the video game into a social revolution and has managed to popularise it among a sector of the population that had not previously accessed this kind of entertainment," the jury said.

"Noted for excluding violence from his creations, Miyamoto has revolutionized the industry," it added in a statement.

Born in Sonobe in Kyoto, Miyamoto joined Nintendo in 1977 after studying industrial design.

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

International News

No security breached in sex scandal: Secret Service chief

WASHINGTON (AFP) - No operational security was breached during the Secret Service sex scandal in Colombia last month, the agency's head told US lawmakers on Wednesday.

"At the time the misconduct occurred, none of the individuals involved in misconduct had received any specific protective information, sensitive security documents, firearms, radios or other security related equipment in their hotel rooms," Secret Service director Mark Sullivan told a US Senate hearing.

Meanwhile Wednesday a

Washington Post report said four implicated Secret Service employees had decided to fight their dismissal arguing they were made into scapegoats "for behavior that the Secret Service has long tolerated."

Sullivan stressed the integrity of most of his agency's members. "The overwhelming majority of men and women who serve in this agency exemplify five core values justice, duty, courage, honesty and loyalty," he said.

"The notion that this type of behavior is condoned or authorized is just absurd," he

added in reference to the Post report.

The elite agency has been scrambling to contain fallout from the mid-April affair involving prostitutes and its agents in the Colombian city of Cartagena, where President Barack Obama attended the Summit of the Americas.

More than two dozen Secret Service agents and military personnel, tasked with preparing security for Obama's high-profile visit, were sent home as a result.

continues on page 7

Egyptians vote for successor ... continued from page 1

The government has given employees the choice of taking either Wednesday or Thursday off to go vote.

More than 50 million eligible voters have been called to choose one of 12 candidates wrestling to succeed Mubarak.

Voting over two days is taking place at 13,000 polling stations, with initial results

expected on Sunday.

A senior interior ministry official said police were on standby across the country and helping soldiers secure polling stations.

The election marks the final phase of a tumultuous transition overseen by the ruling military council after Mubarak's ouster in a popular

uprising last year.

Leading contenders include former foreign minister and Arab League chief Amr Mussa, who is seen as an experienced politician and diplomat but like Ahmed Shafiq, Mubarak's last prime minister, is accused of belonging to the old regime.

The powerful Muslim Brotherhood's candidate Mohammed Mursi faces competition from Abdel Moneim Abul Fotouh, a former member of the Islamist movement who portrays himself as a consensus choice with a wide range of support.

Shafiq told AFP that the country would face "huge problems" if an Islamist won and that he was the only one who could stop the fundamentalists from spreading their influence.

The next president will inherit a struggling economy, deteriorating security and the challenge of uniting a nation divided by the uprising and its sometimes deadly aftermath, but his powers are yet to be defined by a new constitution.

Chavez appears for first time since Cuba cancer treatment



CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez promised Tuesday an "unprecedented" victory in the upcoming presidential election in his first appearance since returning from his latest trip to Cuba for cancer treatment.

"The defeat we will give you has no precedent in the political history of this country," Chavez said, addressing his opposition.

Chavez, 57, spoke at a council of ministers in a two-hour-plus event broadcast on radio and television.

The president, who returned from Havana on May 11, did not offer details about his condition.

Chavez has had phone conversations that aired on state-run VTV television since

returning from Cuba, but this was the first time he appeared on camera since the trip.

Chavez has undergone surgery twice in the past year to remove cancerous tumors, and has had chemotherapy followed by radiation treatments to try to rid himself of the cancer.

He has not disclosed the type of cancer he has or the prognosis, which, with presidential elections set for October 7, has fueled political uncertainty and a wave of rumors.

In power since 1999, Chavez is running for a third consecutive term as a "revolutionary socialist" against Henrique Capriles, the youthful Miranda state governor and center-left candidate for the united opposition.



A man puts the finishing touches on graffiti picturing the morphed faces of Egyptian ousted president Hosni Mubarak (R) and military ruler Hussein Tantawi and presidential candidates Amr Mussa (C) and Ahmed Shafiq (L), near Cairo's central Tahrir square on May 22. The Arabic writing reads, "I will never give you peace and you will not rule me for another day." **AFP PHOTO**

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International News

No security breached continued from page 6



Nine Secret Service agents have since left the agency as it seeks to repair its tarnished reputation, and it tightened rules for employees.

Senators listening to Sullivan's testimony seemed intent on determining whether what happened in Cartagena was an isolated incident.

Senator Susan Collins appeared particularly skeptical.

"The number involved, as well as the participation of two senior supervisors, make me believe that this was not a one time event," she said. "Rather, the circumstances unfortunately suggest an issue of culture".

Senator Joe Lieberman,

who heads the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs that hosted Sullivan, said an initial review of the agency's disciplinary record over the past five years revealed 64 instances where allegations or complaints of sexual abuse were made against employees.

"We have begun to review the agency's answers and found individual cases of misconduct over the last 5 years that I would say are troubling, but do not yet contain sufficient evidence of pattern of misconduct or a culture of misconduct," Lieberman said.

"However we have not concluded our oversight of this matter," he added.



The tough-talking US Federal Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald, 51, announced on May 23, 2012 that he is stepping down from the post he has held for more than a decade in Chicago. His office announced the resignation will be effective June 30. Fitzgerald prosecuted thousands of criminal and high-profile cases, including against Illinois governors Rod Blagojevich and George Ryan, former Vice President Dick Cheney's top aide I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby and media mogul Conrad Black.

AFP PHOTO



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WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

OPENING PARTY / WELCOME CELEBRATION
10pm - 3am, Hard Rock Café (Noord)
Featuring DJ General Lee

THURSDAY, MAY 24

LIVE RADIO REMOTE BROADCASTS
LASER 101: w/ GEE MONEY St. Maarten Radio
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WHUR: MIDDAY w/ TRACI LATRELLE
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WBAV: MIDDAY w/ CHIRL GIRL
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

DOUG & DEDE SHOW
3pm - 7pm, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino (Oranjestad)

FOXXHOLE RADIO
5pm - 7pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

CARUBBEAN FESTIVAL
6pm - 10pm, San Nicholas

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11pm - 3am, Hard Rock Café (Noord)
Featuring DJ General Lee

FRIDAY, MAY 25

MAIN SOURCE FITNESS BOOTCAMP
9am - 10am, Westin Hotel Poolside (Palm Beach)

LIVE RADIO REMOTE BROADCASTS
LASER 101: w/ GEE MONEY St. Maarten Radio
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WHUR: MIDDAY w/ TRACI LATRELLE
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

WBAV: MIDDAY w/ CHIRL GIRL
10am - 2pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

FOXXHOLE RADIO
3pm - 6pm, Radisson - Gilligan's (Palm Beach)

DOUG & DEDE SHOW
3pm - 7pm, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino (Oranjestad)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH COMEDY NIGHT
7pm - 11pm, Aruba Entertainment Center (Oranjestad)
ARIES SPEARS
TONY ROBERTS
GINA YASHERE

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11pm - 3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring DJ Frank Ski

SATURDAY, MAY 26

MAIN SOURCE FITNESS BOOTCAMP
9am - 10am, Westin Hotel Poolside (Palm Beach)

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am - 3pm, MooMba Beach (Palm Beach)

MAIN STAGE CONCERT
7pm - 11pm
Soul Beach Amphitheater - Nikky Beach Adjacent (Oranjestad)
LL COOL J featuring DJ Z-TRIP
LEDISI
ARUBA ALL-STARS

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
11:30pm - 3am, Nikky Beach Club (Oranjestad)
Featuring DJ Bubby Love

SUNDAY, MAY 27

SOUL BEACH DAYTIME EVENT
10am - 3pm, Baby Beach (San Nicholas)

MAIN STAGE CONCERT
7pm - 11pm
Soul Beach Amphitheater - Nikky Beach Adjacent (Oranjestad)
R. KELLY
MELANIE FIONA
YOUTH XTREME

NIGHTCLUB PARTY
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No charges against Frenchwoman for US plane scare

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A Frenchwoman who caused a security scare on a US-bound flight after she claimed to have been fitted with some kind of device will be sent home without charge, US officials said Wednesday.

After investigations, no criminal complaint will be filed against Lucie Zeeko Marigot, a French citizen and a native of Cameroon, who caused her flight from Paris to North Carolina to be diverted to Maine, the Department of Justice said.

Marigot, 41, had given the flight attendant a note in French saying she was "a victim of a group of doctors" and that she had "an object in her body that is out of my control," the justice department said in a statement.

"When the flight attendant asked whether the object could hurt her or others, she replied

that she did not know," it added.

"An examination by two doctors on board determined that she had no visible scars indicating any kind of implant."

Marigot had also given the attendant a book about her personal story, which was also in French.

The US Airways plane, flight 787, flying from Paris, was diverted to Maine, where the woman was taken into custody by the FBI before the Boeing 767 continued its journey to Charlotte, North Carolina.

The plane and luggage was searched on arrival in Bangor but no explosives or dangerous items were found, the statement said.

Following the investigations, Marigot was to be taken into custody by US border officials and sent back to France,

the justice department added.

Coming on the heels of a thwarted airline bomb plot by Al-Qaeda's Yemen branch, the incident has laid bare US worry over shifting tactics of militants as they seek new ways -- and new technologies, including non-metallic bombs -- to penetrate ever-tighter US security.

US Attorney Thomas E. Delahanty said it had been the right decision to divert the plane, given the circumstances at the time.

Last year, US officials warned airlines that militant groups were studying how to surgically hide bombs inside humans to evade airport checks.

But the head of the House Homeland Security Committee, Representative Peter King, said there should have been red flags when the woman boarded with no luggage.

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Health & Living

Kids suffer long-term from parents' smoking: study

SYDNEY (AFP) - Children exposed to their parents' cigarette smoke are at greater risk of suffering serious cardiovascular health problems later in life, a study showed Wednesday.

The Menzies Research Institute in Tasmania collected data from a Finnish and Australian study following children first examined 20 years ago who are now aged in their mid-30s.

It found that those exposed to passive smoke as youngsters have less elasticity in their arteries, an indicator of poor cardiovascular health.

Study author and Menzies Research fellow Seana Gall

said while it has been previously known that passive smoke was harmful, this was the world's first examination on the long-term effects on blood vessel health.

"We found that people who had been exposed to parental smoking when they were children had less elastic arteries, an early indicator of poor cardiovascular health."

Gall added that it was not explained by the participants' own smoking habits.

"The effect was seen up to 27 years later, suggesting a long-term and irreversible effect of passive smoking in childhood on the health of arteries," she said.

"The chemicals in cigarette smoke interact with the lining of the blood vessels and that seems to be causing an inability of them to expand and contract properly."

The World Health Organization estimates that about 40 percent of the world's children are regularly exposed to second-hand smoke at home, with 600,000 deaths annually caused by passive smoking.

"The highest prevalence of smoking is still seen in those age groups that correspond with people first becoming parents, so that's still a concern and we'd want to get the prevalence down in those groups particularly," said Gall.

Low Peru temperatures kill 94 children since January

LIMA (AFP) - Nearly 100 children under the age of five died of pneumonia between January and April in Peru due to a cold wave that swept through the country's Andean region, the Health Ministry said Wednesday.

The ministry reported over 797,000 episodes of non-pneumonic acute respiratory infections in toddlers during the period, along with 9,286 cases of pneumonia.

The total number of reported deaths from pneumonia stood at 94 from January 1 to April 28, health authorities said in a bulletin. Most of the

deaths were in the southern and southeastern departments -- the poorest in the country.

Temperatures there reached 10 degrees below zero Celsius (14 degrees Fahrenheit) in areas with elevations above 3,500 meters (11,480 feet).

Last year, cold temperatures in the Andes killed 359 children under the age of five, according to the Health Ministry.

The World Health Organization says pneumonia is the leading cause of infant mortality worldwide, killing some 1.4 million children under five each year.

7 steps for healthy eating

The trick is to eat healthily, exercise regularly and slim gently.

-1 You only need to cut out 200 calories per day to lose weight (assuming you are usually within the recommended limits of 1,500 calories per day for women and 2,000 calories for men).

-2 Keep creative control over your meals.

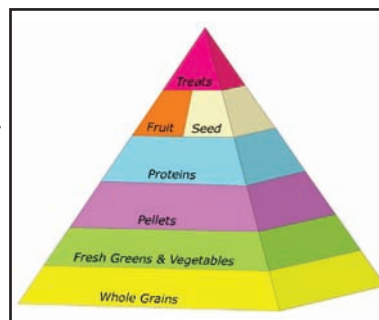
-3 Keep your meals balanced - the more natural colours on your plate, the more nutrients you get.

-4 Drink lots of liquid (more water if possible).

-5 Have meals on Schedule (try 4 small meals instead of 2 big)

-6 Exercise! at least 30 minutes a day, will do!

-7 Aim to fit clothes better rather than weigh less.



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Sci-Tech

French rights groups want Google to stop suggesting 'Jew'



PARIS (AFP) - A French judge on Wednesday asked a mediator to resolve a dispute pitting Internet giant Google against anti-racism groups who object to the search engine suggesting users add "Jew" to name searches.

The conflict stems from Google's autocomplete feature that suggests what search people might want based on algorithms of previous searches.

Because users of Google.fr frequently ask whether politicians, actors or other celebrities are Jewish or not, the word "Jew" in French is frequently suggested as what those using the search engine might in fact be asking about.

SOS Racisme, the Movement against Racism and for Friendship between Peoples (MRAP) and the International

League Against Racism and anti-Semitism (LICRA) argue that Google is unintentionally breaking the law.

Google users "are confronted daily by the unsolicited and almost systematic association of the word 'Jew' with the names of the best-known people in the world of politics, the media or business," the groups say.

Under French law, it is illegal to record someone's ethnicity in a database.

Judge Martine Provost-Lopin accepted a request from all parties to appoint a mediator to find a solution, with a next hearing set for June 27, said SOS Racisme's lawyer Patrick Klugman.

"We will discuss more philosophy than law, more technical solutions than who is right or wrong," Klugman said, adding that the mediator was former business court judge Jean-Pierre Mattei.

A Google France spokesman told AFP on Tuesday that autocomplete results were "generated completely automatically, based purely on algorithmic criteria that correspond notably with the popularity of web users' inputs."

"Google does not decide on these requests in a manual way -- all requests shown by autocomplete have previously been searched for by users on Google," the spokesman said, asking not to be named.



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Europe's largest solar telescope opens in Canary Islands



TENERIFE (AFP) - A powerful solar telescope billed as the largest in Europe opened Monday on Spain's Canary Islands which scientists say will allow them to study the sun in unprecedented detail.

With a mirror diameter of 1.5 metres (4.9 feet), the Gregor telescope will be able to show structures on the sun on scales as small as 70 kilometres (43.5 miles), the Astrophysical Institute of the Canary Islands said in a statement.

The telescope was built on the island of Tenerife at a cost of 12.85 million euros (\$16.4 million) by a German consortium led by the Kiepenheuer Institute for Solar Physics in Freiburg which covered the majority of the expense.

"Its advanced technology will allow the scientific community -- Spanish, German and international -- to study the sun in an unprecedented level of detail," the statement said.

In addition to the large di-

ameter of its mirror, the telescope features a retractable roof that prevents air turbulence in its optical path which allows it to deliver "images of a sharpness that up until now no terrestrial solar telescope has ever obtained."

The solar telescope is the largest in Europe and the third largest in the world, the institute said.

"Gregor was built mainly to study physical processes on the surface of the sun," said Oskar von der Luhe, the director of the Kiepenheuer Institute.

"In these layers we see how energy from its interior emerges and then is launched into space, and on some occasions, reaches the Earth," he added.

Named after 17th century Scottish mathematician and astronomer James Gregory, the telescope will be used at night to observe stars.

COMICS

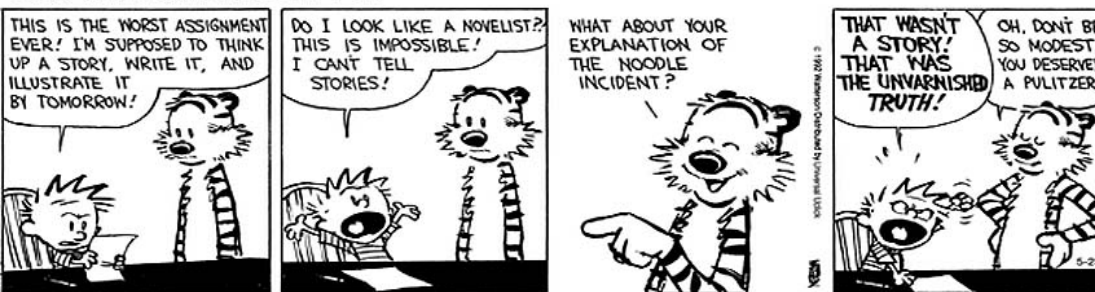
PICKLES



MOMMA



CALVIN and HOBBES



CROSSWORD



CROSSWORD

ACROSS

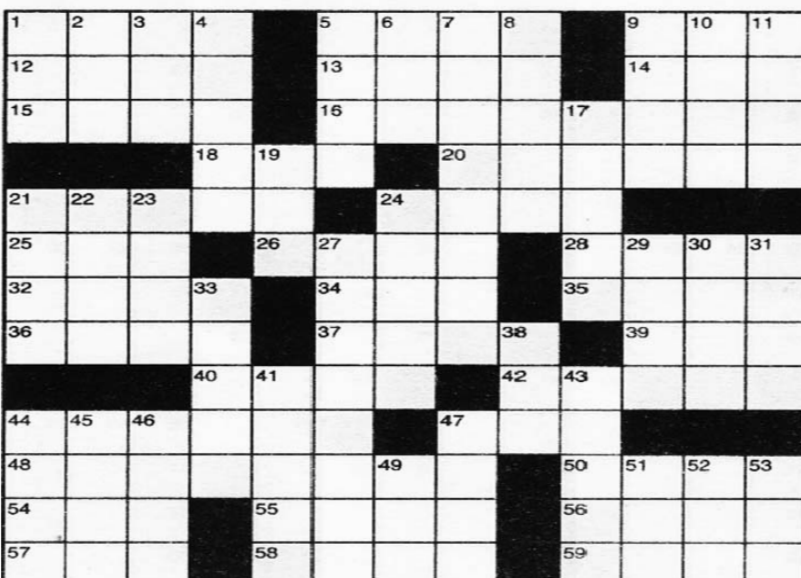
1. Specification (abbr.)
5. Mass of floating ice
9. Truck-making inits.
12. Hawkeye State
13. For all time
14. Zodiac sign
15. Young suffix
16. South Pacific islander
18. "Prelude ____ Kiss" (2 wds.)
20. Safe to eat
21. Pit worker
24. Bud holder
25. Poetic work
26. Slightly open
28. "Arrivederci, ____"
32. Treble ____
34. Capp and Pacino
35. Bony fish
36. Actress Sedgwick
37. Banana's skin
39. Movie studio letters
40. Accountants (abbr.)
42. Desert stop
44. Lure (hyph.)
47. Gridiron VIPs
48. Smallest
50. Singer Jenny
54. Actress ____ B. Davis

55. ____ spumante
56. Grew mellow
57. Yr. divisions
58. Gather grain
59. The haves and have-____

DOWN

1. Bro's sibling
2. Saucepan
3. Sheep mom
4. ____ blanche
5. Alpha follower
6. One Gabor
7. Practice a play
8. Networks of lines
9. Fast-talking

10. Dinner, e.g.
11. Ice cream holder
17. Rows
19. "...man ____ mouse?" (2 wds.)
21. Scoff
22. Lazily
23. Poetic "never"
24. Nooks between mountains
27. ____ beetle
29. Electrical units
30. "The Gift of the ____"
31. Navy bigwigs (abbr.)
33. Aspect
38. Tennis hit
41. Arctic ____ bear
43. Narnia leader
44. Lobster limb
45. Hog sound
46. Peaks (abbr.)
47. Swab brand (hyph.)
49. Bus depot (abbr.)
51. "Here ____ again!" (2 wds.)
52. Fisherman's device
53. Letters after a dentist's name



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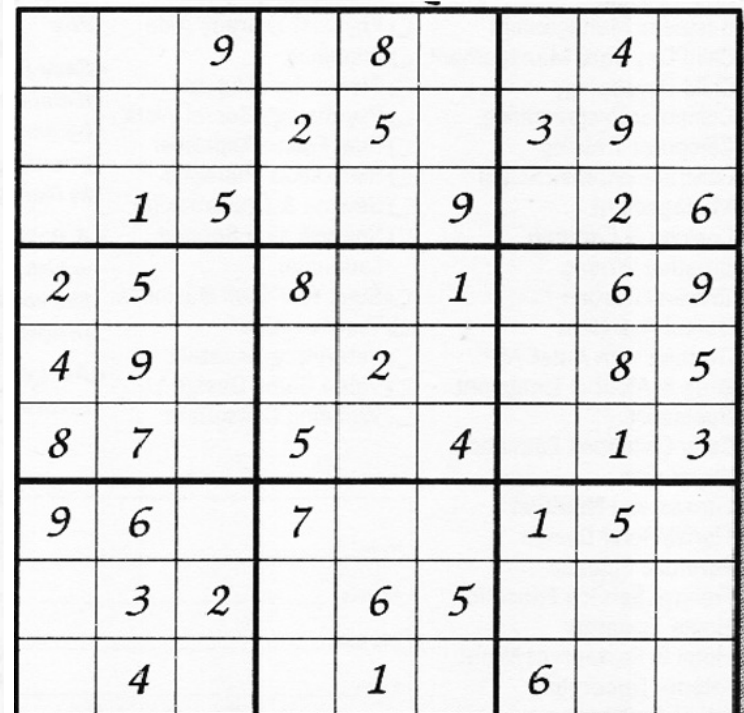
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

2	8	9	8	1	6	4	5	3
8	4	6	5	9	7	2	1	3
5	1	7	2	4	8	9	6	3
1	6	2	7	6	5	9	4	8
5	8	4	1	2	9	1	6	7
6	9	7	1	4	8	5	2	3
9	2	8	6	7	5	1	4	3
1	6	5	4	2	7	8	9	3
4	7	5	9	8	1	6	2	3

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



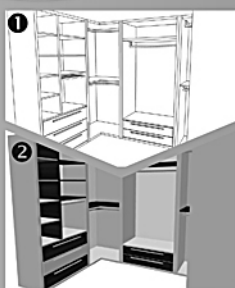
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Finance

Lawsuits pile up over Facebook IPO

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Lawsuits piled up Wednesday against Facebook, its underwriters and the Nasdaq exchange as angry investors sought to recover losses from the company's flop \$16 billion IPO.

At least four lawsuits had been filed claiming the company and the lead dealers of its shares had withheld crucial information from smaller investors.

The Massachusetts state government issued a subpoena for the lead underwriter, Morgan Stanley, over how it shared information ahead of the massive share sale.

And one investor sued the

Nasdaq OMX exchange for damages resulting from the huge computer glitches that stalled or prevented the execution of orders on millions of shares after the shares hit the market Friday.

The lawsuits alleged that Facebook, company executives and the underwriters of the IPO violated securities laws by issuing "false and misleading" information in the official documents before the share sale.

They "failed to disclose that during the IPO roadshow, the lead underwriters... cut their earnings forecasts and that news of the estimate cut was passed on only to a handful of large investor clients, not to the public,"

said Glancy Binkow & Goldberg in its suit.

Facebook went public Friday, selling 421 million shares to raise \$16 billion in the country's second-largest IPO ever.

But the shares plunged 18 percent over the first three trading sessions, driving allegations that large institutional investors had received privileged analyses that drove them to dump the shares, while small investors paid the price.

Facebook said it would "vigorously" defend itself as it rejected a New York investor lawsuit.

"We believe the lawsuit is without merit and will defend ourselves vigorously," a Facebook spokesperson said.

Britain's Cameron urges decisive plan for Greece

BRUSSELS (AFP) - British Prime Minister David Cameron called on eurozone countries to come up with a decisive plan for debt-stricken Greece at a European Union summit Wednesday.

Cameron also urged the 17 countries that use the euro to take longer-term action, including allowing the Euro-

pean Central Bank to stabilise the troubled single currency.

"What we need is a decisive plan for Greece, and we need decisive plans to help get the European economies moving," Cameron told reporters in Brussels.

"But if we're not going to keep coming back and back to meetings like this we also

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
05/23/2012	Code			
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	0.98	1.00	1.002
Canada	CAD	1.720	1.740	1.760
Britain	GBP	2.740	2.790	2.850
Switzerland	CHF	1.8754	1.8826	1.8906
Netherlands	EUR	2.2342	2.2546	2.2773
Sweden	SEK	0.2389	0.2461	0.2541
Denmark	DKK	0.2937	0.3009	0.3089
Norway	NOK	0.2880	0.2952	0.3032
Japan	JPY	222.11	224.14	226.39
(per 10,000)				
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Oil price slumps under \$90 in New York

LONDON (AFP) - Oil prices slumped on Wednesday, falling to a six-month low under \$90 in New York as the dollar rallied on eurozone debt tensions, traders said.

New York's main contract, West Texas Intermediate crude for delivery in July, slid \$1.89 to \$89.96 a barrel -- the lowest level since the start of November.

Brent North Sea crude for July tumbled \$2.67 to \$105.74 a barrel in late London deals.

"Crude prices plunged today as the US dollar soared," said David Morrison, senior strategist at trading group GFT Markets.

A stronger US currency makes dollar-denominated oil more expensive for buyers using the European single currency -- denting demand for crude.

"Investors sought out the relative safety of the greenback as fears grew over the outlook for the eurozone."

The euro dived to a 22-month low under \$1.26, as investors shunned risky assets before an informal EU summit and after the former Greek premier warned that Athens might leave the eurozone.

Oil prices also dropped on easing tensions over the nuclear ambitions of major crude

producer Iran, traders said.

World powers pressing Iran to scale back its nuclear programme Wednesday offered a new batch of incentives that however fell short of the sanctions relief sought by Tehran.

Reports said they included a revival of previous attempts at a deal whereby Iran would ship abroad its stockpiles of enriched uranium in return for fuel for a reactor producing medical isotopes.

Other incentives were reportedly easing Iranian access to aircraft parts and a possible suspension of an EU insurance ban on ships carrying Iranian oil.

But beyond a pledge not to impose any more, the package made no mention of easing the barrage of sanctions that have been piled -- with more to come into effect in July -- on Iran over suspicions the country wants nuclear weapons.

In return, the P5+1 want Iran to suspend 20-percent enrichment, which they see as the most worrying part of Tehran's activities since the capability reduces the theoretical "breakout" time needed to get the bomb.

Progress over Iran "could result in US-led sanctions on Iranian oil imports being eased," Morrison added.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

SHE DOLE IMP
IAM AUDEN BAA
NUM DODGECITY
GLAND AMUSES
BEA LYE
MIRANDA DAFT
USE DEFOG SOD
GANG TRASHES
OWL BLT
CONNIE LASSO
RIOGRANDE HAD
ELS EVERY OWE
EYE DEBS ENS

Britain does not use the euro but the eurozone is its biggest trading partner and the crisis has hit the British economy, which is currently in a double-dip recession.

Cameron's comments on Europe have in the past antagonised some of his EU peers, especially after he kept Britain out of an EU fiscal treaty in December.

Thursdays

Carnival Show

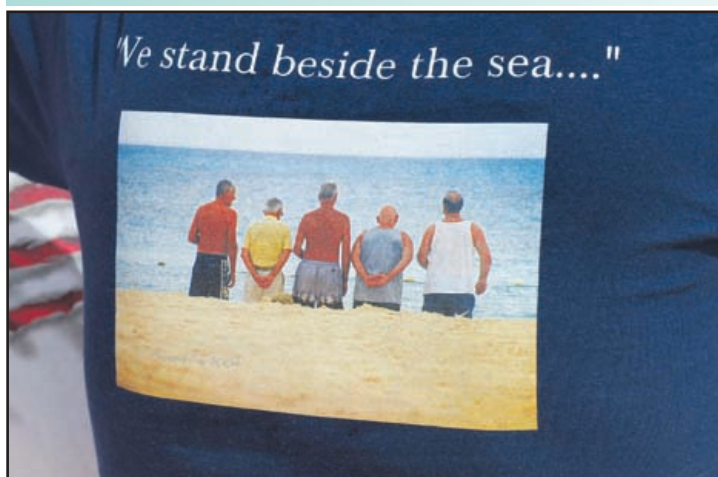
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Annual Memorial Day Service to take place this Monday at Costa Linda



the original five

In 2004, a group informally dubbed "The Costa Linda Vets," consisting of Frank Nini, Rich Lamonth, Bobby Nadal and Griff McElroy, veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces, were joined by their good friend Henry Lavergne of Canada in organizing a memorial service on the official U.S. holiday. They were all timeshare owners at the Costa Linda Resort, and with their families staged a brief, poignant homage to those who had made the ultimate sacrifice for their country while serving in the armed forces.

"Being on Aruba, where we have so many people from so many lands, it has always been our intention that the service is not about serving under any single flag," commented Frank Nini. "We welcome servicemen and veterans, and those wishing to remember them, no matter their nation of origin."

"From the beginning, we have attempted to keep the ceremony simple, solemn and apolitical. 'We've kept it solemn for obvious reasons and simple because of the ages of some of our vets who might find it difficult to stand



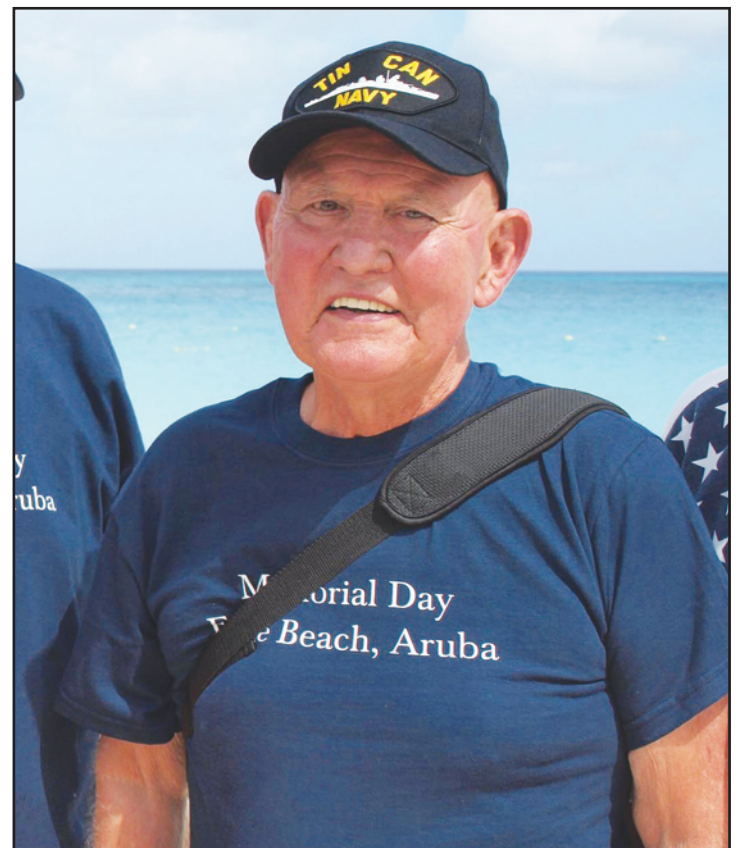
A gathering of veterans salute

in the sun too long. We have attracted veterans from all nations – Holland, Aruba and South Africa, to mention a few. So in fairness to all, we thought that large national banners and anthems would be inappropriate. However, we encourage participants to wear any uniforms or national symbols they wish to wear."

Veterans are asked to meet at the Costa Linda Beach at 10:00 AM sharp this coming Monday morning, May 28. It is also requested that observers please leave the beach clear between "the Detail" and the sea, as after a short reading of the poem "We Stand by the Sea" a memorial wreath of flowers will be placed in the surf. There will then be another poem read followed by the playing of Taps and the presentation of arms by "the Detail," which will then be dismissed.

This year, sadly, an additional element will be added to the placing of the wreath. One of the founders of the event, Bobby Nadal passed away since last year's gathering, and his widow, Maureen, and his children will scatter his ashes in the sea when the wreath is placed.

by Rosalie Klein



RIP Bobby Nadal

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Palm Beach Casino host the Wind Greek Group from Alabama



Last week Palm Beach Casino at the Westin Resort hosted the Wind Greek Group from Alabama.

Each year Palm Beach Casino invites this group from Alabama to come and enjoy the island and play at the Palm Beach Casino, said a spokesperson for the Casino.

The Wind Greek Group did just that and had tremendous fun playing at Palm Beach Casino, where they won lots of cash money.

Their days were filled with winnings in Palm Beach Casino, with more than \$100,000 in Slot Jackpots in only 6 days!

These are just a few of the names from the many winners at Palm Beach

Casino.

Mrs. Katherine Kroll won a total of \$1,430 at our Slot Machine "Egyptian Tombs"

Mr. Tony Lameth won a total of \$1,688 at our Slot Machine "Roaring 40"

Mr. Tony Lameth won a total of \$2,640 at our Slot Machine "Roaring 40"

Mr. Tony Lameth won a total of \$1,453 at our Slot Machine "Book of Ra"

Mr. Howell Mc Clain won a total of \$1,508 at our Slot Machine "Roaring 40"

Mrs. Louise Lameth won a total of \$1,231 at our Slot Machine "Plenty on Twenty"

Mrs. Elisabeth Crook won a total of \$1,490 at our Slot Machine "Tiki Is-

land"

Mrs. Elisabeth Crook won a total of \$1,200 at our Slot Machine "Plenty of Twenty"

The Wind Greek Group was very pleased with the service and the warm welcome to the island, they had such a great time at the Westin Resort.

Before leaving the island the Casino hosted a farewell dinner in the Ballroom specially for the Wind Greek Group, which was enjoyed by each and everyone.

The Wind Greek Group had such a great time and are already planning to visit Aruba again next year and will be surely visiting Westin Resort & Palm Beach Casino once again.

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on the beach chairs on a spa-

portable bedroom, a bathroom, a kitchenette in the dining/living area, ideal for one or two persons. Note: the room has a sofa bed, so up to 4 persons can stay in the apartment.

The double bedroom apartment will give you two bedrooms, one with a queen size bed, and one with two single beds. There is a bathroom, a kitchenette, dining area/living room, and also a spacious patio or balcony to relax outside. Note: the room has a sofa bed, so up to 6 persons can stay in the apartment.

Del Rey Apartments is located at Kamay 13-D.

For reservations please call at tel. (297) 586-3309, Fax: (297) 586-8331 or check it out at www.delreyaruba.com



cious pool deck with parasols. Your car will be safe in the meantime on the secured parking lot.

Your apartment is air-conditioned and fully equipped. Del Rey's excellent maid-service brings you back into your regularly cleaned room after a day at the pool, and you'll also find clean towels in your room daily.

In leisure time, you're free to watch cable TV, surf the internet using the broadband connection or watch a DVD.

The single bedroom apartment offers a com-





EURO 2012 - POLAND - UKRAINE

June 8 - July 1



Ireland's underdogs ready to bite at Euros



Robbie Keane, captain of the Republic of Ireland national football team and skipper, scores a goal, securing the victory which have sealed Ireland's progress to the 2012 Euro cup

DUBLIN (AFP) - Giovanni Trapattoni has warned the Republic of Ireland's Euro 2012 rivals that his side will relish their role as the tournament's underdogs.

Sharing the same stage as the all-star casts of Spain, Germany, France and the Netherlands will initially leave Trapattoni's journeymen pushed firmly into the shadows when the tournament gets underway in Poland and the Ukraine on June 8.

When they were drawn in a Group C including world and European champions Spain, as well as Italy and Croatia, it would have been understandable if Ireland prepared to travel to eastern Europe more in hope than expectation of stealing the spotlight.

Bookmakers certainly expect little from the Irish, who have been installed as such heavy outsiders at 80-1 that, of the 16 teams competing, only Denmark are regarded as less likely winners.

Trapattoni, however, takes a far more upbeat approach to his team's first appearance at the European Championships since 1988 and their first at any major tournament since the 2002 World Cup in Japan and South Korea.

Inspired by Denmark's remarkable triumph at Euro 1992 when the team arrived as last-minute replacements for war-torn Yugoslavia and ended up taking home the trophy, Trapattoni is convinced his players can confound the critics.

"Everyone thought Barcelona would win the Champions League this season but they lost. And Denmark were on holidays when they came back to win the European Championships in 1992," Trapattoni said.

"Obviously, over some months the stronger teams usually win but 90 minutes is 90 minutes. There are games that teams can lose in an instant after a mistake. That is football."

In terms of star power there is no denying Ireland are very much a support act in a group featuring Spain's Xavi and Andres Iniesta, Italian talents like Antonio Cassano and Daniele De Rossi and Croatia midfielder Luka Modric.

While Shay Given, Damien Duff and Robbie Keane have enjoyed good careers at the highest level, the majority of Ireland's squad are Premier League and Championship grafters who rely on perspiration rather than inspiration.

Trapattoni, who has handed a fairytale call-up to young winger James McClean just six months after he was languishing in Sunderland's reserve team, acknowledges his

group is cut from rougher cloth than most but should still be respected.

"We don't have (Lionel) Messi or other quality creative players like (Cristiano) Ronaldo, but we have a strong team with organisation and with balance," Trapattoni said.

Whatever their fate, Ireland's progress to the finals is cause enough for celebration after such a long absence from major tournaments.

After finishing runners-up to Russia in their qualifying group, Ireland were handed a plum draw against minnows Estonia in the play-offs.

They banished the memories of agonising play-off defeats against Belgium, Iran and France with an emphatic 5-1 aggregate victory.

Thoughts quickly turned to emulating Jack Charlton's 1988 vintage that shocked England 1-0 in Germany and the 1990 team which reached the World Cup quarter-finals.

Ireland open their campaign against Croatia in Poznan on June 10 before tackling Spain in Gdansk four days later.

Their final group fixture is a potentially epic encounter with Trapattoni's native Italy in Poznan on June 18.

Realistically, Trapattoni's men are likely to have to beat Croatia to stand a chance of qualifying, and if they do so, he admits the Italy game could be crucial.

Elegant Pirlo key to Italy system



ROME (AFP) - A year ago AC Milan seemed to suggest they thought Andrea Pirlo was finished.

He was 31, had just spent a frustrating season largely interrupted by injuries and in which he had lost his starting berth to new signing Mark van Bommel.

He had come to the end of his contract but after 10 years with the seven-time European champions, Milan only saw fit to offer the elegant playmaker a one-year extension.

Pirlo was hurt, he felt he was worth more than that.

After all, he was several years younger than the likes of Gennaro Gattuso, Massimo Ambrosini, Clarence Seedorf and Filippo Inzaghi, all of whom could hardly expect more than the year they were offered.

So he decided to move on but his destination was more than a surprise.

He went to Juventus, who had just failed to even qualify for Europe and were in crisis following a second successive seventh-placed finish.

Those who thought Pirlo still had it in him to perform at the highest level thought he could have gone to a team playing Champions League football.

And those who concurred that he was finished were surprised a team of Juve's size were turning to him to resurrect their fortunes.

But he did that and then some.

Pirlo proved he was as good as ever this last season, proving to be the catalyst to everything good that Juve did, in particular winning the title, the second in a row for him and his third in total.

He set the relentless tempo

that overwhelmed many of Juve's opponents, he was the link between defence and attack and he was often the player picking up the loose ball when opponents only half cleared it.

And then there are the statistics.

Pirlo provided more assists than any other player in Serie A but perhaps more importantly he played more passes than anyone else.

Not by a few, though, by about 50 percent.

If ever there was a player in Italy who could fit effortlessly into the Barcelona line-up, it would be Pirlo.

An uncanny knack of finding space, the ability, despite a frail frame, to hold onto the ball with a feint here and turn there, pinpoint passing and a willingness to look for and find the ball, Pirlo is the archetypal Barca player.

Quite apart from that, he is the most important player in the Italy set-up.

A main reason for that is the system favoured by coach Cesare Prandelli which often involves a pair of deep-lying forwards and no out-and-out striker.

With two attackers dropping deep, the midfielders need to break beyond the opposition defence and Pirlo's pinpoint passing is one of the main reasons that works.

Prandelli says he doesn't want to give opposition teams a point of reference, in other words he wants their central defenders to be constantly feeling uncomfortable as the men they're supposed to be marking drift deep or wide, trying to pull them out of position.

Pirlo's ability to find space to receive a pass back from a forward and then release a breaking team-mate is a massive weapon for Italy.

What's more, he has many years of international experience and is one of the few remaining 2006 World Cup winners still part of the current squad.

His experience will be vital at a tournament where several of Italy's first choice starters will be either playing their first international tournament or will be playing a leading role at one for the first time.



MADRID (AFP-) - All-time Spanish record goalscorer David Villa has lost his race to be fit for next month's Euro 2012 it was announced on the Spanish Football Federation's website. The 30-year-old - scorer of 51 goals in 82 internationals - had been a major doubt since breaking his tibia at last December's World Club Championship. However, the Barcelona star was given time by national coach Vicente del Bosque to prove his fitness but time finally ran out on Tuesday as the defending European champions arrived at their training camp in Austria. "David Villa cannot definitely be on the list for Euro 2012," read a statement on the RFEF website.

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Players' union charges owners

continued from pg 16

"The complaint is our effort to fulfill our duty to every NFL player. They deserve to know, above all, the facts and the truth about this conspiracy."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the deal reached last year precludes such a lawsuit.

"The filing of these claims is prohibited by the collective bargaining agreement and separately by an agreement signed by the players' attorneys last August," Aiello said. "The claims have absolutely no merit and we fully expect them to be dismissed."

"We continue to look forward to focusing on the future of the game rather than grievances of a prior era that have already been resolved."

The union said the "secret cap" was previously unknown to union leaders and therefore not part of the legal actions they took ahead of last year's lockout.

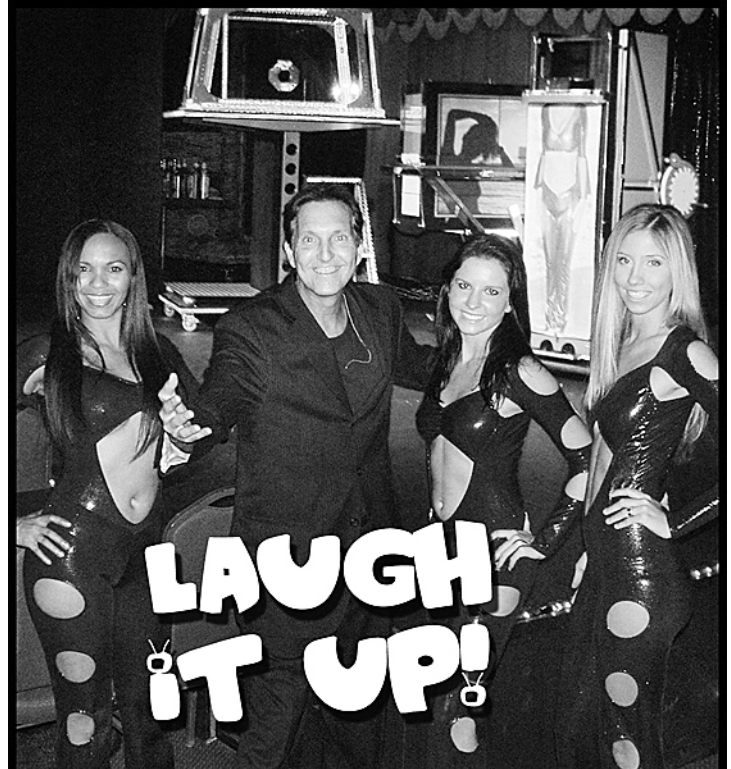
The complaint alleges NFL owners and league officials concealed the cap's existence by "approving the very player contracts that enabled the Redskins, Cowboys, (Oakland) Raiders and (New Orleans) Saints to exceed the secret, collusive salary cap."

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American League					National League				
East	W	L	Pct	GB	East	W	L	Pct	GB
BALTIMORE	28	17	.622	--	WASHINGTON	26	17	.605	--
TAMPA	27	18	.600	1.0	ATLANTA	26	18	.591	0.5
TORONTO	24	21	.533	4.0	MIAMI	24	19	.558	2.0
YANKEES	22	21	.512	5.0	NY METS	24	20	.545	2.5
BOSTON	22	22	.500	5.5	PHILADELPHIA	21	23	.477	5.5
Central	W	L	Pct	GB	Central	W	L	Pct	GB
CLEVELAND	24	18	.571	--	ST. LOUIS	24	19	.558	--
CHICAGO	21	22	.488	3.5	CINCINNATI	23	19	.548	0.5
DETROIT	20	22	.476	4.0	HOUSTON	20	23	.465	4.0
KANSAS	17	25	.405	7.0	PITTSBURG	20	24	.455	4.5
MINNESOTA	15	27	.357	9.0	MILWAUKEE	18	26	.409	6.5
West	W	L	Pct	GB	CHICAGO <td>15</td> <td>28</td> <td>.349</td> <td>9.0</td>	15	28	.349	9.0
TEXAS	27	17	.614	--	West	W	L	Pct	GB
OAKLAND	22	22	.500	5.0	LA DODGERS	30	13	.698	--
SEATTLE	20	25	.444	7.5	SAN FRANCISCO	23	21	.523	7.5
LA ANGELES	19	25	.432	8.0	ARIZONA	19	25	.432	11.5
					SAN DIEGO	16	28	.364	14.5
					COLORADO	15	27	.357	14.5

x-Clinched Playoff Spot; y-Division Champ

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NFL: Players' union charges owners with collusion



Executive Director of the National Football League Players' Association (NFLPA) DeMaurice Smith

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The National Football League Players Association charged the league, its clubs and team owners with collusion during the 2010 season in a complaint filed on Wednesday.

The NFL players union, which settled a bitter money dispute with owners last August to avoid reducing or wiping out the 2011 season, claims owners violated provisions of a prior deal by imposing a "secret \$123 million per club" salary cap in 2010.

"When the rules are broken in a way that hurts the game, we have an obligation to act," NFL players union executive director DeMaurice Smith said. "We cannot stand by when we now know that the owners conspired to collude."

The 2010 season was played without teams suffering a salary cap as a condition of NFL owners voting to terminate their union deal early in order to start the renegotiation that led to last year's new contract.

But the claim, filed in US District Court at Minneapolis, alleges the NFL and team owners colluded by agreeing not to spend beyond a certain

level "solely by self-interest, unconstrained by their clear and unambiguous obligations."

The complaint said New York Giants owner John Mara, chairman of the NFL's management council executive committee, confirmed that the NFL direct teams to limit salaries during the uncapped season.

The union cited comments made by Mara regarding penalties given the Washington Redskins and Dallas Cowboys for front-loading contracts into the uncapped year to contravene rules.

"What they did was in violation of the spirit of the salary cap," Mara said. "They attempted to take advantage of a one-year loophole -- full well knowing there would be consequences."

That, the union contends, was a public admission that teams were expected to limit their spending even without salary cap rules in place.

"Our union recently learned that there was a secret salary cap agreement in an uncapped year," NFL players union president Domonique Foxworth said.

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NBA: Heat roll over Pacers to lead series



LeBron James #6 of the Miami Heat dunks

MIAMI (AFP) - Miami got their swagger back as they scored the opening three points and never trailed to easily beat Indiana 115-83 in game five Tuesday to take a 3-2 lead in their Eastern Conference series.

LeBron James scored 30 points and Dwyane Wade had 28 points for the Heat who can wrap up their best-of-seven series with a win in game six today in Indianapolis.

"I felt good today," Wade said. "I just let the game come to me. It is good for me to get two good games in a row."

League MVP James also had 10 rebounds and eight assists for the Heat as he and Wade combined for 27 points in the first half to put the Heat up 49-40 going into the third quarter.

Forward Shane Battier also scored 13 points for the Heat who shot a franchise playoff record 61.4 percent from the

field.

"Shane came out very aggressive," Wade said. "When the ball starts going down for him, you know it's a great day because it keeps the floor spread."

Tuesday's game got physical with each team receiving a flagrant foul in the second quarter. In the last minute of the game Indiana's Lance Stephenson took a hard elbow

to the face area from Miami reserve player Dexter Pittman, who was given flagrant foul penalty.

Stephenson upset the Heat earlier in the series when he was caught on camera giving James the choke sign after the Heat star missed two key free throws in Indiana's game three victory.

Second-seeded Miami have now won two straight in the series and they did it without all-star big man Chris Bosh who suffered a strained abdominal muscle in game one.

"We wanted to come in with much better energy and focus," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "A lot of good things tonight, but we have to focus on the next one."

Paul George had a team-high 11 points and Roy Hibbert finished with eight points and 12 rebounds for the third-seeded Pacers who got a scare when Danny Granger went down with an ankle injury in the third and did not return.

Miami are now clear favourites to come out of the East with the Chicago Bulls already eliminated.

Miami won three of the four from Indiana in the regular season. The only other post-season meeting between the Pacers and Heat was eight years ago in the East semi-finals with Indiana winning in six.

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